Jew  
3721Practitioner's Docket No. U 015042-3

PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application  
of \_\_\_\_\_

Inventor(s)

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Title of invention

OR

In re application of: FIORENZO DRAGHETTI, et. al.

Serial No.: 10/782,744 Group No. 3721

Filed: February 19, 2004 Examiner:

For: METHOD AND UNIT FOR HANDLING AND PROCESSING BLANKS FOR PACKING  
TOBACCO ARTICLESCommissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR  
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. 1.97(b))CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a) and 1.10\*  
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37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. 1.10\*

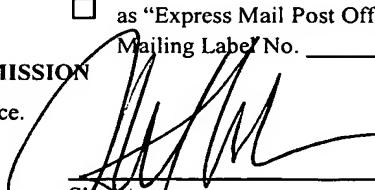
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Date: May 28, 2004

  
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(type or print name of person certifying)

\* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

**NOTE:** 37 C.F.R. 1.98(b):

- (1) *Each U.S. patent listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by inventor, patent number, and issue date.*
- (2) *Each U.S. patent application published listed in an information disclosure statement shall be identified by applicant, patent application publication number, and publication date.*
- (3) *Each U.S. application listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by the inventor, application number, and filing date.*
- (4) *Each foreign patent or published foreign patent application listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by the country or patent office which issued the patent or published the application, an appropriate document number, and the publication date indicated on the patent or published application.*
- (5) *Each publication listed in an information disclosure statement must be identified by publisher, author (if any), title, relevant pages of the publication, date, and place of publication.*

**WARNING:**

*No extension of time can be had under 37 C.F.R. § 1.36 (a) or (b) for filing an IDS. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(j).*

**NOTE:** The "filing date of a national application" under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark Office, the filing is defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to § 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to § 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by § 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by § 1.41." 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) within the periods set forth in § 1.494 or § 1.495. 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(2).

### **IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).

**NOTE:** "No certification or fee is due when the filing is made within the above time period. It is advisable to ensure that no Office action has been mailed if the disclosure statement is delayed until after three months from filing."

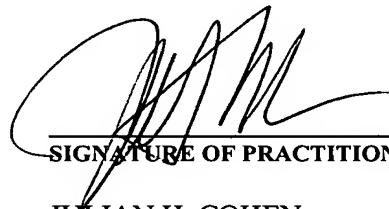
**NOTE:** "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 C.F.R. 1.10. An office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

**NOTE:** "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

**NOTE:** "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 C.F.R. 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 C.F.R. 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

**WARNING:** "A petition for suspension of action to allow applicant time to submit an information disclosure statement will be denied as failing to present good and sufficient reasons, since 37 C.F.R. 1.97 provides adequate recourse for the timely submission of prior art for consideration by the examiner." Notice of July 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

If a fee is required, please charge deposit account 12-0425.



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: FIORENZO DRAGHETTI, et. al.

Serial No.: 10/782,744

Group No. 3721

Filed: February 19, 2004

Examiner:

For: METHOD AND UNIT FOR HANDLING AND PROCESSING BLANKS FOR  
PACKING TOBACCO ARTICLES

Attorney Docket No.: U 015042-3

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

We draw the attention of the Examiner to the attached English-language version of an International-type Search Report from a foreign office in respect of counterpart European Application No. EP 04 10 0668 that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. The Search Report makes consideration of any non-English art required. MPEP 609.

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CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a) and 1.10\*

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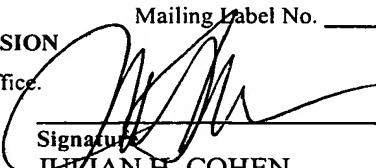
37 C.F.R. 1.10\*

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TRANSMISSION

transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

Date: May 28, 2004

  
Signature  
JULIAN H. COHEN

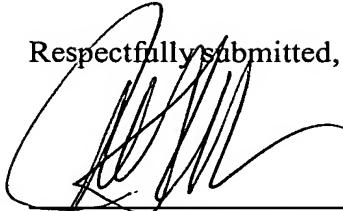
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\*WARNING: Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. 1.10(b).

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

Form PTO-1449 is also attached with reference copies.

Respectfully submitted,



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(Information Disclosure Statement Short Form—page 2 of 2) 6-1c

FORM PTO-1449  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)	U. S DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.
		U 015042-3	10/782,744
		APPLICANT	
		FIORENZO DRAGHETTI, et al.	
		FILING DATE	GROUP
		February 19, 2004	3721

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS	REFERENCE DESIGNATION	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,238,355	8/1993	Boldrini, et al.	
	AB	5,336,040	8/1994	Focke, et al.	
	AC	5,884,451	3/1999	Kano, et al.	
	AD	5,385,526	1/1995	Sigrist, et al.	
	AE	6,102,536	8/2000	Jennel	
	AF	2001/0010332 A1	8/2001	Bismarck et al.	
	AG	5,630,309	5/1997	Blidung et al.	
	AH				
	AI				
	AJ				
	AK				

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	TRANSLATION	
					YES	NO
	AL	9110595	7/1991	WO		
	AM	1072516 A1	1/2001	EP		
	AN	19635433 A1	3/1998	DE		
	AO					
	AP					

## OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Dates, Etc.)

	AR	
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER:	Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.